



Pesticide use and how it effects wildlife

By: Kaya Marcotte

What is a Pesticide?

A pesticide is something that kills things such as

- Weeds
- Germs
- Insects
- Rodents



Which pesticides are used most?

- Weed killers
- Ant killers
- Rat killers
- Disinfecting wipes
- Bleach



How often do people use pesticides?

Some use pesticides once or twice a month but most people use them everyday to clean their homes such as

- Disinfecting wipes
- Bleach
- Comet



In addition, 70-80 pounds of pesticides are sprayed on trees and lawns each year

Which animals can be affected?

Some local examples are

- Hawks
- Owls
- Eagles
- Bees



Any other species of wildlife that may come in contact with pesticides



What are accidental and secondary exposure?

- A accidental exposure: when you mean to kill a pest but you kill another animal
- A secondary exposure: when you kill a pest, and an animal eats the pest then dies too



Why should we care about the animals?

- Hawks/Owls keep rodent levels down
- Eagles are a protected species
- Bees pollinate our food and plants



All species of wildlife are needed for something and they can all be affected by exposure to pesticides

Do pesticides effect Morongo's wildlife?

- Yes - we have had three documented cases of animals dying from pesticides
- A great horned owl
- A baby jack rabbit
- A red tail hawk



Great Horned Owl

- Owl was found on the reservation
- Was there for two days
- Too weak to drink
- Taken to the Living Desert
- Too sick and had to be euthanized



Living Desert Wildlife Rehab Assessment

- Owl was exposed to anticoagulant rodenticides
- Rodenticides placed by pest company
- We think the owl ate a poisoned rodent that ate poison from a bait trap



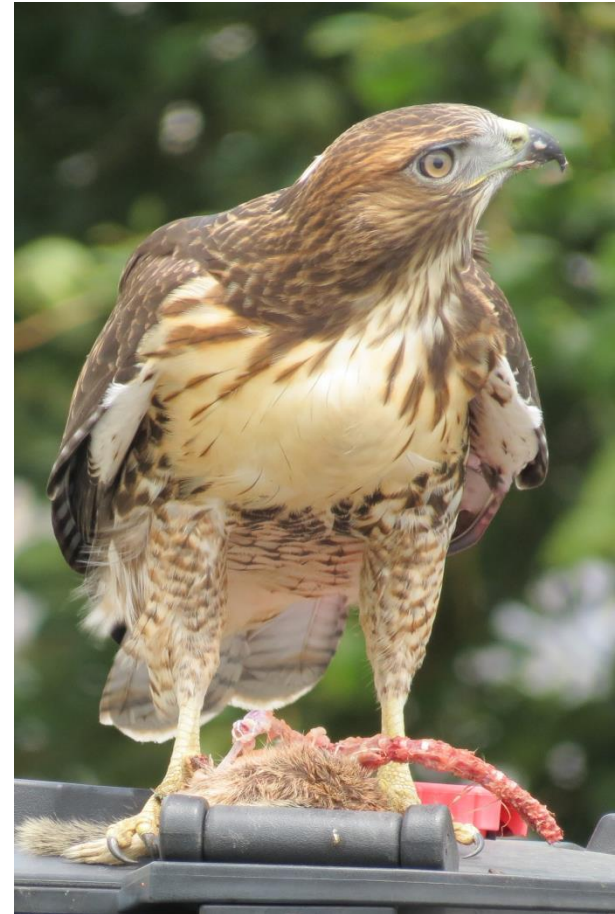
Baby Jack Rabbit

- Found at the Administration building
- Heavy and slow breathing
- Could not move, eat or drink
- The bunny stayed like that the whole day then died



Red Tail Hawk

- The Red Tail Hawk was found on reservation
- Weak it could not move, eat or drink
- Was taken to the Living Desert
- Too sick and had to be euthanized



What can we do about it?

- Take away food, water & shelter from pests
- If you have to use pesticides, use them safely
- Use natural methods



How to get rid of ants in a natural way

You can:

- Spray dish soap and water
- Spray white vinegar and water
- Make boric acid & sugar traps
- Pour boiling water over the nest



How to get rid of weeds in a natural way

You can:

- Pull them
- Spray vinegar, water and dish soap
- Pour alcohol
- Corn gluten meal stops weeds from growing



How to get rid of rodents in a natural way?

- You can use:
- Pepper
- Bay leaves
- Peppermint oil
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Traps
- Keep areas cleaner



Conclusion

It is important to protect the natural resources we have on the Morongo Reservation.

- Pesticides effect wildlife
- We can use natural methods
- Or less harmful pesticides
 - www.wildlife.ca.gov/living-with-wildlife/rodenticides



Questions?